REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed November 22, 2005. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-21 were pending in this Application. Claims 1-21 were rejected. Claims 1, 6, 9, 16 and 20 have been amended to further define various features of Applicants' invention. Claim 13 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Publication Information for References in last-submitted IDS

Examiner has requested additional information related to the references U and V submitted in the form PTO-1449 submitted on August 25, 2005. Reference U, Graham, John W.; Comparing Web Server Appliances and General-Purpose Servers; http://www.dell.com/powersolutions; P. 108-109 was published 1st Quarter, 2001. Reference V, Barclay, David, et al.: Building a Scalable, Highly Available e-Business with PowerApp Server Appliances; http://www.dell.com/powersolutions; P.24-30 was published 2nd Quarter, 2001.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-21 stand rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based upon a public use or sale of the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse and submit the cited art does not disclose or teach all of the elements or steps of the claimed embodiment of the invention. The so called Kick-Start utility does not initiate assigning a host name to a host upon receiving "user input" as recited in Independent Claims 1, 9 and 16. Specifically, Independent Claim 1 recite the user input as comprising, "notification of the insertion of a disk within the first host." Independent Claim 9 recites the user input "selected from the group consisting of the insertion of a blank disk within the first host, depressing a power button associated with the first host and depressing a reset button associated with the first host." Independent Claim 16 recites that the user input comprises "notification of the insertion of a disk within the first host."

In contrast, the Kick-Start utility assigns host names during the process of generating a configuration file and requires a system administrator to manually input MAC address or service tag information associated with each of the host machines. Accordingly, the Kick Start utility does not disclose or teach each and every one of the features of the present invention and, as such, cannot create an on-sale bar. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration, withdrawal of the sections under §102 and fully allowance of Independent Claims 1, 9 and 16 and Claims 2-8, 10-15 and 17-21 which depend therefrom.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-12, 14-19 and 21

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-12, 14-19 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,631,442 issued to Steven M. Blumenau ("Blumenau") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,378,068 issued to Mark J. Foster et al. ("Foster"). Applicants respectfully traverse and submit that the cited art combinations, even if proper, which Applicants do not concede, does not render the claimed embodiments of the invention obvious.

Examiner cites to Blumenau as teaching, among other steps, receiving user input form a first host among a plurality of hosts. Examiner cites to Foster as teaching the use of ready signals and completion signals. The cited portion of Blumenau discloses a host that sends an "access request (e.g., a poll for volume information) along with the host's World Wide Name (WWN)..." to a switch and in response the switch "generates and returns a unique ID to the requesting host." See Col. 22, lines 54-60. Accordingly, Blumenau does not disclose, teach or suggest a system that utilizes user input, namely the insertion of a disk or depressing a power button or reset button to initiate the host naming process. The Foster also fails to teach this aspect of the claimed embodiments.

Examiner has cited to CD-ROM Professional, August 1, 1995, Volume, 8, Issue 8, by Lawrence Gussin ("Gussin"), with respect to Claims 6, 13 and 20 as teaching user input in the form of the detecting the insertion of media in a CD-ROM drive. Applicants note, however, that the AutoPlay feature described by Gussin is used to initiate the installation of

the media which has been inserted in the CD-ROM drive. Under the teaching of Gussin, the insertion of a disk or other media into a host would then cause the host to run a so-called AutoPlay application to install, configure and run the application that has been inserted therein. In contrast, the Independent Claims of the present invention use the insertion of a disk in the host to send a signal to the cluster controller which triggers the host-naming process. The application stored on the disk (if any) is not installed, configured or run during this process. Accordingly, the addition of the Gussin reference to Blumenau and Foster would also not render obvious Independent Claims 1, 9 or 16

For at least these reasons, the combination of Blumenau and Foster cannot render obvious Independent Claims 1, 9 or 16 or Claims 2-3, 5, 7-8, 10-12, 14, 15, 17-19 and 21 which depend therefrom. Applicants request reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections under §103 and full allowance of Claims 1-3, 5, 7-12, 14-19 and 21.

Claims 4, 6 and 20

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Blumenau and Foster as applied to Claims 1-3, 5, 7-12, 14-19 and 21 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,098,116 issued to Mark Nixon et al. ("Nixon"). Claims 6 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Blumenau and Foster as applied to Claims 1-3, 5, 7-12, 14-19 and 21 above, and further in view of CD-ROM Professional, August 1, 1995, Volume, 8, Issue 8, by Lawrence Gussin ("Gussin").

For the reasons discussed above, Claims 4, 6, 13 and 20 depend from claims that have been placed in condition for allowance, thereby obviating the present rejections under §103. Applicants request reconsideration, withdrawal of the §103 rejections and full allowance of Claims 4, 6, 13 and 20.

Interview Summary

Applicants acknowledge that Applicants' representative contacted the Examiner to discuss scheduling a telephonic interview but later cancelled the request.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of Claims 1-21 as amended.

Applicants believe there are no fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0383 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2548.

Respectfully submitted,
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